AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please **delete** the word "Description" on page 1, line 4.

Please **insert** the following paragraph on page 1, line 7:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please **insert** the following paragraph on page 3, line 3:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please **amend** the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 9, as follows:

This aim is achieved according to the invention by a process for the synthetic generation of methane from a feed gas mixture, i.e. a feed gas mixture originating from a biomass gasification process, comprising carbon monoxide, hydrogen and water vapour and optionally C_2 components and/or aromatic hydrocarbons.~~; said process comprising the steps of:~~

~~a)bringing the feed gas mixture in contact with a fluidized bed catalyst having catalyst particles which comprise as catalytic active component a metal and/or a metal compound or a mixture thereof;~~

~~under the circumstances of:~~

~~b)an elevated temperature in the range of 250 to 500°C;~~

~~c)a feed gas pressure in the range of 0.8 to 70 bar;~~

~~d)a gas hourly space velocity of 1000 to 50000 h^{-1}; and~~

~~a concentration of H_2/CO in the feed gas mixture in the range of 0.25 to 5.~~

In that process, a feed gas mixture including carbon monoxide, hydrogen, water vapor, CO_2, volatile hydrocarbons comprising C_2 and higher, unsaturated C_2 components and aromatic hydrocarbons in the range of 1 to 10 vol% is provided. The feed gas mixture is contacted with a fluidized bed catalyst having catalyst particles having a catalytic active component selected from the group consisting of a metal, a metal compound and combinations thereof. The contacting occurs at an elevated temperature in the range of 250 to 450°C, a feed gas pressure in the range of 0.8 to 70 bar, a gas hourly space velocity of 1000 to 50000 h^{-1}, and a concentration of H_2/CO in the gas mixture in the range of 0.25 to 5.

Please **insert** the following paragraphs on page 5, line 22:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

The novel features and method steps characteristic of the invention are set out in the claims below. The invention itself, however, as well as other features and advantages thereof, are best understood by reference to the detailed description, which follows, when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawing.

The sole figure shows an exemplary illustration of a plant employing a process for the synthetic generation of methane from a feed gas mixture.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please **add** the enclosed abstract on a separate page.

Attachment: Abstract on a separate page